

eight (8) copies) that are submitted timely to the IRS. All comments will be available for public inspection and copying. A public hearing may be scheduled if requested in writing by a person that timely submits written comments. If a public hearing is scheduled, notice of the date, time, and place for the hearing will be published in the Federal Register.

Dale D. Goode,

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, Assistant Chief Counsel (Corporate).*

[FR Doc. 95-30273 Filed 12-12-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Privacy Act of 1974; Report of Matching Programs

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

**ACTION:** Notice of renewal—VA/IRS Match Program.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), intends to renew the computer matching program comparing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) income records with VA patient income data which is contained in the patient medical records.

The goal of these matches is to compare income, social security number, and employment status as reported to VHA with income records maintained by IRS and SSA. For the information of all concerned, a summary report of the VHA matching program describing the computer matches follows. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2), copies of the computer matching report are being sent to both houses of Congress. These matches are expected to commence on or about January 1, 1996, but start no sooner than 30 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register or 40 days after copies of this notice and the agreement are submitted to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget whichever is later. These matches may be extended by the involved Data Integrity Boards for a twelve month period provided all agencies involved certify to the Data Integrity Boards, within three months of the termination date of the original match, that the matching program will be conducted without change and the matching programs have been conducted in compliance with the original matching agreements. The

matches will not continue past the legislative authorized date to obtain this information. However, expiration of this agreement is June 30, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested individuals may comment on the matches by writing to the Chief Administrative Officer (161D), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Janice E. Wheeler (202) 273-6276, Program Analyst, Income Verification Match Policy Service.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Further information regarding the matching program is provided below. This information is required by Title 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(12), the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. A copy of this notice has been provided to both houses of Congress and the Office of Management and Budget.

Approved: December 4, 1995.

Jesse Brown,

*Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

#### Report of Matching Program

Department of Veterans Affairs Patient Medical Records With Income Records Maintained by the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration

a. *Authority:* Title 38 U.S.C. 5106 and 5317; Pub. L. 101-508 as amended by Pub. L. 102-568.

b. *Program Description:*

(1) *Purpose:* (a) The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA) plans to match the household income information contained in the medical records of certain nonservice-connected veterans, with the income records for those persons maintained by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). Those nonservice-connected veterans subject to income verification matching are those veterans who are receiving VA medical care in a mandatory eligibility category due to a finding of low income subsequent to means testing.

(b) Currently, information about a veterans household income (i.e., veterans and spouses receipt of wage, self-employment and other income as well as employment status, health insurance coverage and number of dependents) is obtained when the veteran makes application for medical care at a VA medical care facility. The household income and dependent data is evaluated in a "means test" which takes into account deductions of certain income not counted as such for Veterans Health Administration eligibility

purposes. Once a net income for the veteran is established, it is applied against means test thresholds, or levels of income establishing mandatory or discretionary eligibility for medical care. If the veterans net income falls below the applicable means test threshold, he or she is eligible for mandatory care (i.e., no-cost care); however, if the net income falls over the applicable threshold, the veteran is given a discretionary eligibility. Veterans who are eligible for discretionary care are provided care if the VA medical facility has the resources to treat discretionary veterans, and if the veteran agrees to make a co-payment for such care. The proposed matching programs will enable VA to verify the accuracy of reported income and employment status and therefore more accurately determine eligibility for medical care.

(2) *Procedures:* VA's Veterans Health Administration has established an Income Verification Match (IVM) Center. The IVM Center will electronically extra demographic and income data from each VA medical care facility's database on nonservice-connected veterans found eligible for mandatory care based solely on low income. The VHA IVM extract file will be matched against IRS and SSA income records. If a VHA record and SSA or IRS record match on social security number and name, the IVM Center will begin an extensive case development and verification process. This process will assure the validity of the matched cases by verifying the IRS/SSA reported income amount with the payer(s) and recipients of the income. Each veteran and/or spouse identified by the match will be contacted in order to notify the veteran and/or spouse of any income discrepancy identified by the match, to verify the discrepancy, and to advise him or her of potential changes to the veterans' medical care eligibility at the VA medical center, and the potential billing action for co-payments. Before any adverse action is taken, the individual(s) identified by the match will be given the opportunity to contest the findings. Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that there has been a violation of criminal laws, the matter will be referred for prosecution consideration in accordance with existing VA policies.

c. *Records to be Matched.* The VA records involved in the match are patient medical records maintained in the "Patient Medical Record-VA (24VA136)" published at 40 FR 38095 (8/26/75) and amended at 40 FR 52125 (11/7/75), 41 FR 2881 (1/20/76), 41 FR 11631 (3/19/76), 42 FR 30557 (6/15/72),

44 FR 31058 (5/30/79), 45 FR 77220 (11/21/80), 46 FR 2766 (1/12/81), 47 FR 28522 (6/30/82), 47 FR 51841 (11/17/82), 50 FR 11610 (3/22/85), 51 FR 25968 (7/17/86), 51 FR 44406 (12/9/86), 52 FR 381 (1/5/87), 53 FR 49818 (12/13/90), 55 FR 5112 (2/13/90), 55 FR 37604 (9/12/90), 55 FR 42534 (10/19/90), 56 FR 1054 (1/10/91), 57 FR 28003 (6/23/92), 57 FR 4519 (10/1/92), 58 FR 29853 (5/24/93), 58 FR 40852 (7/30/93) and 58 FR 57674 (10/26/93). The IRS records are from the Wage and Information Returns (IRP) Master File, Privacy Act system Treas/IRS 22.061. The SSA records are from the Earnings Recording and Self-Employment Income system, HHS/SSA/OSR 09-60-0059.

d. *Period of Match:* The initial data exchanges are expected to begin 40 days after the matching agreements are signed by the Data Integrity Boards (DIB's) and Congressional Offices and OMB have been notified, and 30 days from the date of publication of notice in the Federal Register or 40 days from the date this notice is approved, whichever is later. These matches may be extended by the involved DIB's for a twelve month period provided the agencies participating in the match certify to the DIB's, within three months of the determination date of the original match, that the matching program will be conducted without change and the matching programs have been conducted in compliance with the original matching agreements. The matches will not continue past the date legislative authority to obtain this information expires.

[FR Doc. 95-30137 Filed 12/12/95 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

#### **Privacy Act of 1974; New System of Records—Automated Customer Registration System (ACRS)—VA (87VA045)**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice, new system of records.

**SUMMARY:** The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552(e)(4)) requires that all agencies publish in the Federal Register a notice of the existence and character of their systems of records. Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is adding a new system of records entitled "Automated Customer Registration System (ACRS)—VA (87VA045)".

Federal computer security regulations require that managers and operators of Government computer systems maintain control over who accesses the resources of those systems. This system of records, which will replace the PROS/Keys

system (67VA30), consists of the administrative paperwork involved in adding, modifying or deleting access privileges to the computer resources at the VA Austin Automation Center (AAC), as well as a computer database used to grant access to those resources.

The information maintained in this system of records in hard copy and electronic form will include the names and social security numbers of VA employees, employees of other Government agencies and selected authorized vendors who require access to the computer resources at the AAC. The records will also include business address and telephone number, job title and information relating to data file and computer system access permissions granted to that individual.

Release of information from these records will only be made in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 for investigatory, judicial and administrative uses. VA has determined that release of information for these purposes is a necessary and proper use of information in this system of records and that specific routine uses for transfer of this information are appropriate.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed system of records to the Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420. All relevant material received before January 12, 1996, will be considered. All written comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1176, 801 I Street NW, Washington, DC 20001, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. only, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays) until January 22, 1996.

If no public comment is received during the 30-day review period allowed for public comment, or unless otherwise published in the Federal Register by VA, the routine use statements included herein are effective January 12, 1996, and all other provisions included herein are effective January 12, 1996.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A "Report of Intention to Publish a Federal Register Notice of New System of Records" and an advance copy of the new system notice have been provided to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, and the Director, Office of Management and Budget

(OMB), as required by the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 522(r) (Privacy Act), guidelines issued by OMB (50 FR 52730), December 24, 1985, Pub. L. 100-503, and follow-up OMB guidelines issued July 25, 1994 (59 FR 37917).

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Nelda Cook (045/200B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, telephone number (202) 565-8045.

Approved: December 1, 1995.

Jesse Brown,

*Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

87VA045

#### **SYSTEM NAME:**

Automated Customer Registration System (ACRS)—Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

#### **SYSTEM LOCATION:**

The automated records are maintained by the VA Automation Center, 1615 Woodward Street, Austin, TX 78772. The paper records will be maintained at each VA field station that has a responsibility for ACRS input.

#### **CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:**

All Department of Veterans Affairs employees, employees of other Government agencies and authorized contractor personnel who have requested and have been granted access to the automated resources of the VA's Austin Automation Center (AAC).

#### **CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:**

The records in this system, in both paper and electronic form, will include the names and social security numbers of all personnel who have requested and been granted access to the automated resources at the AAC. The records will also include business address and telephone number, job title and information relating to data file and computer system access permissions granted to that individual.

#### **AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:**

Title 38, U.S.C. 501.

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this system of records is to allow the VA Austin Automation Center (AAC) in Austin, TX, to maintain a current list of all VA employees, employees of other Government agencies and authorized contractor personnel who require access to the computer resources of the AAC, in accordance with Federal computer security requirements.